



THE INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE PIONEER

Volume VI, Number 1

January 1982

Several Foundation Grants Made

The Independent Telephone Historical Museum and Hall of Fame Foundation recently awarded a number of grants to preserve historical facilities, elected officers, passed a resolution honoring long-time President Wesley H. Loomis III, and ordered plans be developed for an audio/visual historical program.

Meeting in Chicago on Dec. 2 in the offices of Wilson B. Garnett, executive vice president of Central Telephone & Utilities Corporation, the board of trustees approved the following grants:

- \$5,000 to the Caloosa Pioneer Club, Fort Myers, Fla., for the development of a tape recording and lighted map to describe the growth of the Independent telephone system in the area, for the wiring of an old railroad switchboard for use, and for the display of equipment, directories, photographs and other memorabilia. This will be located in a new museum being developed in an old railroad depot by the City of Fort Myers. An additional \$5,000 will be granted upon evidence of satisfactory progress on the project in six months.

- \$1,000 to the Theodore Gary Chapter to further develop and appropriately display the Chapter's historical equipment in the office of the Missouri Telephone Association, Jefferson City, Mo. Chapter Secretary-Treasurer C.J. "Duke" McCurry is also secretary of the association.

- \$6,000 to the North Star Chapter in Minnesota to completely renovate a 24' x 30' building at Heritage House Museum, Mountain Lake, Minn., to serve as the first Telephone Museum of Minnesota. Heritage House consists of 15 buildings which attract thousands of visitors each year.

- \$5,000 to the Maitland Historical Society, which under the auspices of ITPA's Carl Hill Galloway Pioneer Club, Winter Park, Fla., is developing a telephone museum project. This is the second grant to the society.

- \$2,800.04 to the Tom Griffith Chapter for additional costs of moving and redecorating a 1915 telephone office building from Harper, Iowa, to the Iowa State Fair Grounds, Heritage Village, Des Moines. This is the second grant for the project.

Effort to Acquire Magneto Gear

In addition, the trustees offered support and encouragement to Region I Vice President Ben M. Witmer of Camp Hill, Pa., in his effort to help acquire the magneto central office equipment of the Bryant Pond (Maine) Tele-

phone Company. The New England Chapter of ITPA has a committee chaired by John Conner of Winthrop, Maine, to work on the project.

Continued on back page

Curwood Telephone Pioneers Club Chartered in Michigan

One of ITPA's newest Clubs, the Curwood Telephone Pioneers Club of Michigan, held a dinner meeting in October. Officers were installed and charter membership certificates were presented.

President of the Club is Phyllis Raatz. Other officers are Vice President Leo Renne, Treasurer John Verseput and Secretary Gayle Everts. Other directors in addition to the officers are Leo Blake, Pete Luka and Bobbie Wilde.

Harry Morgan, president of the Gen Tel Mich Pioneer Club, installed the new officers. Nearly 50 people attended the event. The Club is ITPA's third in Michigan and was officially organized on May 20, 1981.

The Club plans a dance in mid-February to raise money. It is involved with supporting a community blood bank and has donated \$300 to the National Cancer Society following a 50-50 raffle of a black and white television set.

Also planned is a fund raising flea market and a picnic for mid-summer.



Phyllis Raatz (L), new president of the Curwood Telephone Pioneers Club, is congratulated by Harry Morgan, president of the Gen Tel Mich Pioneer Club.

Send Us Checks—Not Cash

Please do not send cash through the mail to ITPA. When ordering Pioneer jewelry, industry neckties or paying dues, always use a check or money order.

Cash sometimes seems to have a way of getting lost in the mail.

Letters to the Editor

Ray Blain's nostalgic catalog of phrases and words common among telephone plant people of years gone by could be extended. For instance, he did not include "com-a-longs" or "deadman." Plant people were not the only ones given to lingo. Switchboard operators also talked in shorthand.

In the days of yore, toll switchboard operators "built" circuits from point to point by ringing intermediate points and asking for the next point on the route. For example, to establish a circuit between Montgomery, Ala., and Little Rock, Ark., the Montgomery operator would ring Birmingham, then ask Birmingham to ring Memphis, and when she reached Memphis she would ask for Little Rock.

If the Alabama operator replied "NC," she was telling the Montgomery operator that she had no idle circuits to Memphis at that time. If the report was "NC or OD," it meant that some of her circuits were out of order and the working circuits were all busy.

If the Little Rock operator replied "NF," it meant that the called party had no telephone. If the response was "NFMG 25 cents," it meant that the called party had no telephone but a messenger could be sent to call him to a telephone for an extra 25 cent charge. If the report was "UFU," it meant that the called party was out of his office for a few minutes. If the distant operator was told by the calling operator to "LW," the distant operator was to leave word to have the called party return the call.

Yours for preserving some of the color of the yester-years,

H.M. Stewart Sr.
Standard Telephone Company
Cornelia, Ga.

Dear ITPA:

Thank you so much for that lovely write-up about me (naming her Pioneer of the Month for July). You made me sound too good to be real. Actually I just try to live by the Golden Rule. I like to help people whenever I can because people have always been so good to me when I needed help....I learned long ago it's like putting money in the bank. It's always there when you need it, but if you don't put anything in you can't expect to get anything out. We all need help at some time in our lives.

I wish everyone in the world could have seen Phil Donahue's Show in July with Carol Burnett and I think it was Charles Grodin. They were talking about how everyone should try to be kinder and friendlier. We used to be known as the friendliest nation on Earth and were

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greatly admired by the rest of the world for that quality, but we are getting to be a nation of grouches. Carol told about experiences she had had just passing out a kind word here and there and how it lightened her day as well as the day of others.

Thank you again,

Anne Watkins, Secretary
Santa Monica Bay Pioneer Club

Frank H. Woods Pioneer Collection Extensive

By Ken Clinefelter
The Lincoln Telephone Company

Telephone people all know of Western Electric and Automatic Electric. But how many of them recognize the following names as manufacturers of telephone equipment: The Cushman Telephone Company, Holcomb Manufacturing Company, American Electric Company, Eureka Company, National Company, Elgin, Pulsion?

At one time they all were in the business of making or distributing telephones and now they are part of the historical telephone collection of the Frank H. Woods Chapter, located in Lincoln, Neb.

The organization's collection includes about 150 instruments and related items, 125 of which are on display in the auditorium of The Lincoln Telephone Company's main office building in Lincoln.

How about an energy-efficient telephone of the 1880s? A wooden pay phone which accepts silver dollars as well as nickels, dimes, quarters and half dollars? A "tandem" telephone? Or a glass-front telephone of the early 1900s which shows the working parts—simple as they are? All are included in the Chapter's collection.

The energy-efficient phone of the 1880s is one which used no electricity at all! It is known as an accoustic or "tight-wire" telephone operated by voice-induced mechanical vibration of a tightly-stretched wire between two sets. It dates back to 1881 and is one of four such phones in the collection.

Silver Dollar Phone Very Rare

The wooden pay phone is known to collectors as "the silver dollar phone" and is very rare. Similar instruments are known to have been used in Columbus, Neb., in the early days of the telephone.

The tandem phone is so named because its three wet call batteries were stacked vertically on shelves. The 61-inch tall Western Electric phone dates back to the pre-1900s.

The glass-front telephone, made by the Eureka Company, is extremely rare. The oak wood wall phone is an example of the two-box type, in which wooden boxes at



Al Farmer, unofficial curator of Frank H. Woods Pioneers' telephone collection, shows off old instrument.

the top and bottom enclose some components of the instrument, while a metal mouthpiece extends on an arm from the center of the phone. On this instrument, the top box has a large glass front which reveals the mechanism of the switchhook. An old label indicates it was used in a hotel in Chicago, probably in the early 1900s.

Also in the collection is a National Company telephone dialing unit and bank of step-by-step switches. This system was installed for a brief time in an exchange at Pawnee City, Neb., in about 1898.

The collection also houses replicas of several unique or extremely rare instruments, including a copy of Alexander Graham Bell's first working telephone. These replicas are believed to have been made by Western Electric for display purposes more than 50 years ago.

Collection Started 52 Years Ago

How would you go about gathering a collection like this? If you followed the pattern of the Frank H. Woods Pioneers, you'd start 52 years ago and you would enlist the help of a succession of people intensely interested in the telephone business and in preserving some of its history.

An early Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Company Publicity Director, C.W. "Red" Motter, started the collection. The date was 1928 or 1929 when the Lincoln company was approaching its 25th year of existence. It was decided it would be a good thing to have a display of old phones for the silver anniversary and Mr. Motter was given the job of gathering them. He sent letters to

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Jack Caldwell demonstrates magneto switchboard.

President's Message

Dear Members:

Prior to taking office last October, there were 12 months of uncertainty arising from certain misinterpretations of an agreement between USITA and ITPA. This problem is not completely resolved; however, I have no doubt that the remaining conflicts within the agreement can be worked out harmoniously, and to the benefit of all.

The main reason for my writing to you at this time is to inform you that there have been several key personnel changes in the ITPA Washington office of late.

Mary Lee, who served this association very capably as Secretary-Treasurer since 1975, resigned as of the National Convention in October. She has also given up her position as Editor of *The PIONEER*, but will continue as a consultant to ITPA for several years.

In addition, Edna Coppage and Jerry Byrd resigned their part-time secretarial positions with the association after many years of dedicated service with both ITPA and USITA.

Without a doubt, we have lost several valued employees; however, we have gained two new ones and a third will be hired soon.

Clyde Sautters has been named Pioneer Office Manager. He has worked on the USITA staff for 14 years, primarily in charge of national conventions and trade shows. He will now coordinate ITPA's Washington activities and office, which is located in the USITA suite.

Working with Clyde is Elicia Murphy, who has been named Pioneer Office Administrator. She has previously worked in the Public Relations Department and Plans and Operations Department of USITA for one year.

George Pickett, executive vice president of USITA, will continue to provide administrative management of ITPA's Washington employees. Mr. Pickett has assured me that he will do his utmost to provide ITPA with all the assistance needed to maintain our operations on a high level.

As previously mentioned, in addition to Clyde and Elicia, we will be hiring a part-time secretary to assist with the office work.

With the assistance of the Washington office, the Board of Directors and I fully intend to continue all services to the membership. In fact, we already are doing that on a five-day-a-week basis with Elicia and Clyde.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to Mary, Edna and Jerry for their many years of devotion to ITPA.

At the same time, I want to welcome Clyde and Elicia on board, and look forward to working with them during this coming year as President.

Sincerely,
GEORGE F. GRIFFIN
ITPA President

Meet ITPA's New Secretary and Treasurer

Elected to serve as secretary of the national organization is Thora K. Sheldon, who retired on July 1, 1980, after 45 years of service with the General Telephone Company of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Sheldon is a charter member of the Keystone State Chapter, which she served as secretary from 1964 to 1976, as vice president and then president. She has been a director of the Chapter since 1974 and was awarded the Chapter's Pioneer of the Year award in 1980.

At the national level, Mrs. Sheldon has served on ITPA's Resolutions Committee, New Members Committee, and Audit and Budget Committee from 1965 to 1968, and is a Life Member of the association.

After serving in various clerical and secretarial positions with her company until 1960, Mrs. Sheldon was elected assistant secretary of the firm. In 1970 she was elected to the additional post of assistant treasurer.

She is a charter member and past president of Zonta International Club of Erie, Pa.



Raymond E. Dolar is ITPA's new treasurer. He retired from General Telephone Company of Florida in 1975 as vice president-controller, a position he held for nearly 10 years.

Mr. Dolar also is a Life Member of ITPA, and has served on its Audit and Budget Committee since 1977.

He is a past member of USITA's Accounting Committee. In 1975 he served as president of the Florida Telephone Association, and he was a director of the group from 1971 to 1975.

Long active in civic affairs, Mr. Dolar is currently a director of the Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind, the Southeast Bank of Tampa and the Peoples Gas System of Tampa. He has held various other community positions ranging from secretary-treasurer of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce to vice president of the United Fund of Greater Tampa.

Mr. Dolar joined the Associated Telephone Utilities Company, a predecessor to GTE, in 1931 and held various controller positions throughout his career.



Pioneer Board Has Busy Meeting

ITPA's Board of Directors was busy at the recent national convention in New Orleans, taking a number of actions and passing several resolutions.

Supporting recommendations by the Special Projects Committee, chaired by Past President Bert Steele, the directors passed a resolution "recognizing and providing that all Chapters will support the 1984 Paralympics."

The board also decided that an annual nationwide project or activity may be established each year based on Chapter recommendation and Executive Committee approval. This subject should be a matter of open discussion at the ITPA convention. The Chapters should express their interests to the association secretary by June 1, 1982, on recommendations for 1983. The board will decide the particular activity based on the Chapters' recommendations and communicate back to the Chapters.

On the recommendations of Doris Stephens, chairperson of the Awards and Activities Committee, the board approved that the criteria for awards should be updated, expanded and included in the Guideline Manual for 1982.

Survey Planned of Telephone Museums

Chairman Ray Blain of the Historical Committee reported that much valuable history and artifacts are being lost because there is no place to store them. He recommended that the national office request the state telephone associations to conduct a survey to determine what museums are now in existence in the industry, that the Hall of Fame Foundation be asked to continue its support of regional museums, and that the information from the survey be carried in *The PIONEER*. The board approved the recommendations.

In addition, the directors passed a resolution thanking Telephone Engineer and Management and Telephony for their publicity, General Telephone Directory Company for printing the convention luncheon program, and Cable Spinning Equipment Company for furnishing the Past President's Plaque.

New Curwood Pioneers Club Welcomed

Another resolution was passed welcoming ITPA's newest Club, the Curwood Telephone Pioneers Club, Owosso, Mich., and expressing appreciation of the board to "all the people who worked so diligently in the formation of this Club."

The board also voted to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee, which met June 23. Among its actions was a recommendation to change the language in the joint agreement between ITPA and USITA, to read as follows and deleting the words in parenthesis: "USITA will furnish administrative (control and direction, technical and) management (expertise within reasonable limitations) at no cost to ITPA."

This was approved, along with certain By-Laws changes in the duties of ITPA's secretary and treasurer.

Incoming President George F. Griffin, near the conclusion of the meeting, addressed the group briefly and expressed appreciation at being elected to Pioneering's highest office.

He announced the following committee chairpersons at that time: Audit and Budget, William F. Walker; Awards and Activities, Ms. Stephens; By-Laws, Harry E. Waller; Executive, Mr. Griffin; Hall of Fame Honors, Wilson B. Garnett; Historical, Mr. Blain; Insurance, L. Dow Goss; Membership, Richard E. Morris; Planning, Bennett R. Miller; Resolutions, William W. Lawrence; and Nominating, Frank S. Barnes.

E.H. Danner Museum of Telephony Welcomes You to Visit

The words, "Come here Watson, I want you!" began a chain of events which, today affects virtually every individual. The ability to communicate in a rapid manner between any two points on the globe was a dream of early telephone pioneers. Today we give little thought to the marvel of the telephone and seldom reflect back on the time when placing a call, even across town, was an historic event.

A nostalgic reminder of the men and women who transformed the telephone from yesterday's luxury, into today's necessity, is the E.H. Danner Museum of Telephony located in the general offices of General Telephone Company of the Southwest in San Angelo, Tex.

The museum was established to honor E.H. Danner, who retired in 1968 as president of the Southwest Company after 40 years with GTE. Mr. Danner and his wife still reside in San Angelo.

The museum houses more than 100 antique telephone displays and is devoted to the development of the telephone. Featured in the exhibit are the gallows frame phone designed by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876, one of the first rotary dial telephones designed in 1897 and the magneto ceiling telephone, a unique telephone that actually hangs from the ceiling.



"Number Plleez..."—Authentic in every detail, the Kellogg switchboard display, complete with operator, will show you what happened when you rang "central" in 1910. This display is a favorite among visitors to the Danner Museum.

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Eight Regional Vice Presidents Introduced

ITPA has eight regions and eight regional vice presidents. They work closely with the association's president, officers and directors. Meet them below in these brief biographies with photos.

Benjamin M. Witmer is vice president of Region I, a position he has held since 1971. He joined the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania in 1927 and moved to Cumberland Valley Telephone Company in 1930. It changed its name to United Telephone Company of Pennsylvania, which he served in various capacities including president from 1963 to 1971. He had some 44 years of industry service when he retired 10 years ago.



Mr. Witmer is a past president of the Pennsylvania Independent Telephone Association, chaired ITPA's Long Range Planning Committee from 1974 to 1978, and currently is a member of the association's Awards Committee.

Region II vice president is George Rimmer, who has been active in pioneering for some 20 years—first as a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America and later with ITPA.



He worked for Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company for 39 years, most recently in personnel relations work until he retired in 1978. In addition, he played professional baseball for three years in the Chicago farm system.

Mr. Rimmer was born in England and was educated there, in Canada and in the U.S. He has served on the executive committees of the Carotel Club and the Tar Heel Chapter.

ITPA Dues Rise for 1982

ITPA members should be aware that the dues increase reported in the July issue of The PIONEER has gone into effect for 1982.

The increase, which is only the second in ITPA's 61-year history, was made inevitable by rising costs for postage, printing, computer services and other expenses.

Dues for active members go to \$8 from \$5. Retired members now pay \$40, up from \$25. Manufacturers and suppliers rise to \$50 from \$25 as a minimum. Dues for auxiliary members remain \$2, and telephone company dues are unchanged—\$25 to \$250 depending on the number of telephones.

Dean Jennings is vice president of Region III. He joined ITPA in November 1969 and is a member of the Larry Reynolds Chapter. He served as president of the Michigan Chapter in both 1976 and 1981.

Mr. Jennings entered the telephone business some 30 years ago by building individual lines into the locally owned Switchboard Association. In 1952 he was elected president of the Association, which changed to the Headwaters Telephone Company in 1954 and merged into the Southern Telephone Company two years later. Later he worked on rights-of-way, construction, installation and repair, and central office maintenance.



Currently, Mr. Jennings is central office supervisor for Southern Telephone, which serves more than 14,000 phones through five exchanges. For many years he has been active in several community and fraternal groups, including service for 17 years as president of the Hillsdale County Intermediate School Board.

The vice president of Region IV is Robert F. Levo, a Pioneer since 1961 and secretary/treasurer of the Texas Chapter since 1975.

Mr. Levo started his industry career in 1946 with the San Angelo Telephone Company after serving four years in the Army Air Corps during World War II. When GTE purchased the San Angelo company in 1953, he became a GTE employee. In January 1981, he completed 35 years of service in the telephone industry.

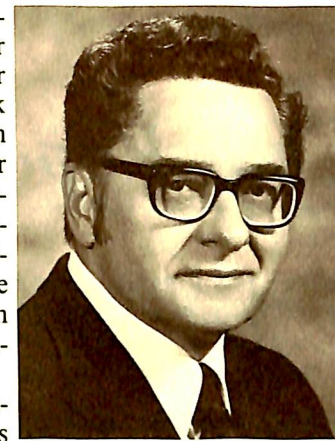


As before, 60 percent of all dues revenue will go to ITPA Chapters and Clubs, with the balance to the national office.

Pioneer membership is still an unusual opportunity and a dues bargain. Pioneering means participating in the fellowship and contributions made to the community and to the Independent telephone industry. Members also receive six issues of The PIONEER each year, they have access to a wide variety of group insurance policies, and they get discounts on Hertz and Avis car rentals.

These increases are very important to help keep ITPA on a sound fiscal basis. Please send your check promptly when you receive your dues notice. To reduce expenses, the association won't be sending any second notices. □

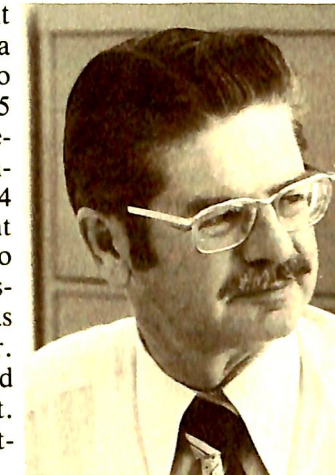
Henry M. Borys is Region V vice president for ITPA. He began his career with Upstate New York Telephone Company in 1953 and three years later he became director of personnel for General Telephone Company of Michigan. He transferred to the Northwest company in 1965 after working in Indiana for six years.



Mr. Borys has a Bachelor of Science degree and is a graduate of Cornell University. In addition, he has attended a variety of management training programs throughout the country. He also has been very active in local and statewide affairs of the Chamber of Commerce, and various personnel and compensation committees.

National Third Vice President Richard E. Morris also is vice president of Region VI. He was featured along with the other ITPA officers in the last issue of the PIONEER in November.

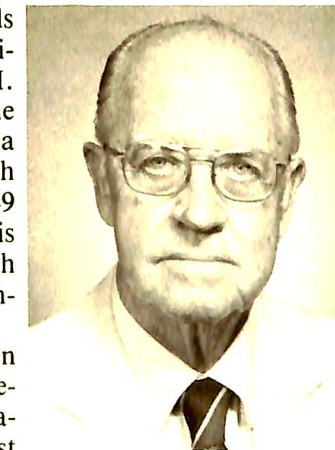
Region VII vice president is William L. Eckles Jr., a native Nebraskan who started his career in 1945 with The Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Company. During the next 14 years he held various plant department positions in two exchanges. He was transferred to Lincoln in 1959 as an equipment engineer. Then in 1968 he returned to the plant department. In 1978 he was named network operation manager.



Mr. Eckles joined the Frank H. Woods Chapter in 1960 and served as president in 1971. From 1976 to 1980 he served as an ITPA director.

George W. Rose rounds out the regional vice presidents, heading Region VIII. His career started when he was 16 with the Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company and concluded 49 years later in 1974. His last 29 years were with General Telephone Company of Florida in Tampa.

He has been active in both the Bell and Independent Pioneer organizations, serving as the first president of ITPA's Sunshine Club. He has been secretary/treasurer of the Florida State Chapter for the past 10 years. Since 1973 he has served as the vice president for Region VIII.



Danner Museum

Continued from page 5

Original telephone directories dating back to 1900 are also on display. The directories are from various exchanges throughout the Southwest Company's four-state operating area of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arkansas. Reproductions of the 1878 telephone directories of Washington, D.C., and New York City also can be seen.

Most of the equipment in the museum is owned by the Southwest Company. The remaining is either on loan or has been donated by employees, manufacturers and private citizens.

Community Relations Manager for GTSW, Charles Watkins, said, "The instruments in the museum visually record telephone history from the birth of the telephone. Visitors to the museum are amazed at the simplistic genius displayed in some of the antique telephones."

Mr. Watkins added there are plans to add more displays to the museum in the near future.

Individuals and groups are invited to visit the museum, Monday through Friday (except holidays), from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at General Telephone Company of the Southwest, 2701 South Johnson Street in San Angelo, Tex. Admission is free.

Two Trade Shows Planned With Roundtable Seminars

It's Telephone Showcase time again, with two trade shows planned by USITA in the next few months. And this year they will be held back-to-back with Roundtable Seminars focusing on "Planning for the Future."

The Midwestern Telephone Showcase is set for Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 23-25. This Tuesday afternoon to Thursday afternoon scheduling is preceded by the Roundtable program on Monday and Tuesday morning.

The Roundtable will feature six concurrent sessions repeated six times so that everyone can attend on a rotating basis. Topics are cellular mobile, electronic information, ENFIA/OCC arrangements, public relations and advertising, marketing and local measured service.

The Showcase is expected to be the largest ever held by USITA and its suppliers affiliate, the U.S. Telecommunications Suppliers Association based in Chicago. Some 650 exhibit booth spaces are anticipated to be occupied by about 230 manufacturers and suppliers. Fifty spaces will be set aside for CATV displays.

As in recent years, Pioneers will staff an information booth to answer questions about ITPA, sign up new members, and sell jewelry and industry neckties.

The Eastern Telephone Showcase will be held in Atlantic City, N.J., May 25-27, again preceded by a Roundtable Seminar. Pioneer representatives also will staff the ITPA booth at this trade show.

For a registration form or housing information on the Showcases, contact Clyde Sautters at USITA. Roundtable information is available from Charles Demek or Robbert Nachtweh at USITA.



Your Chapter and Club Reports



Bill Hinkston Pioneers Donate TTY

The Bill Hinkston Pioneer Club, Sycamore, Ill., has donated a TTY machine to **Lavona Moran**, daughter of Continental Telephone Company employee **Harry K. Moran** and his wife, **Lavona**. The machine not only allows hearing impaired people to communicate by telephone but it is portable.

Richard Norton, customer service manager at Aledo, made the presentation. He reports that there are three other machines in the county, with more to be installed.

The Club planned to install new officers on Jan. 15. They are: President **Tom Strobel**, First Vice President **Charles Strand**, Second Vice President **Lorenzo Fox**, and Directors **Bill Owens**, **Sheryl White**, **Wayne Meminger**, **Jesse Chestnut**, **Lavice Mathiasen** and **Jon Schneider**.

NEAREA Club Holds Banquet

ITPA's NEAREA Telephone Pioneer Club of Dallas, Pa., held its 12th annual banquet Nov. 7 at Shadowbrook Restaurant in Tunkhannock, Pa. Some 68 people attended at \$10 per person.

The evening included a business meeting, dinner, dancing and prizes.

The following officers were installed by Keystone State Chapter Past President **E.E. MacCosbe**: President **Anna T. Niznik**, Vice President **Boyd Todd**, Secretary **Tanya Christ**, Assistant Secretary **Arlene Finley** and Treasurer **Raymond Parsons**. Other directors are **Robert Dance**, **Harold Ross** and **William Sonnet**.

Tom Butler chaired the Nominating Committee. Nearly \$300 was raised by the banquet.

A Life Membership was presented to **Don Davis** by **Ronald Frisbie**. **Boyd Todd** gave plaques of appreciation to **Lloyd Gable** and **Michael Kuchta**.

Busy Speaking Schedule for President

George F. Griffin, ITPA's recently elected president, is going to be a busy traveler—judging by the list of speaking engagements he has scheduled.

In addition to his banquet speech at the Alabama-Mississippi convention in November reported elsewhere in this issue, he was due to attend the Dec. 19 Pioneer banquet of ITPA's California Chapter aboard the Queen Mary as this issue of The PIONEER went to press.

Other commitments are: Feb. 15, ITPA luncheon, Minnesota Telephone Association; May 18, Pioneer luncheon, Michigan Independent Telephone Association, Traverse City, Mich.; May 25, Pioneer luncheon, Badger State Chapter; June 7, luncheon speech, French Lick, Ind.; June 18, Pioneer breakfast, Peach State Chapter,

Atlanta; and June 21, "Eye Opener Breakfast," Empire State Chapter, New York.

You are cordially invited to stop by to say "hello" and discuss Pioneer business at any of these meetings.

Lake City Club, Future Pioneers Busy

The Lake City Pioneers Club in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, reports that its "Save Old Spectacles" project has donated 100 pairs of glasses to the local Kiwanis Club.

The Future Pioneers are selling raffle tickets for a booster jacket drawing. In addition, they are holding a charity garage sale, with volunteers and donations requested.

The Lake City Club newsletter also reported that **Betty Umphred** has retired. She started her career in 1961.

Holmwood-Lorbeer Club Donates Vacuum

ITPA's Holmwood-Lorbeer Club, Pomona, Calif., donated a Hoover vacuum to the House of Ruth Inc., a shelter for battered women and their children in the Pomona Valley and west end of the San Bernardino County.

In the accompanying photograph accepting the presentation on the left is **Mrs. Laura Denison**, director of the House of Ruth. With her are Pioneers **Douglas K. Ross**, historian for the Club; **Margaret Brimhall**, president of the Club, and **Marguerite Agee**, a board member.

The House of Ruth provides crisis hotline services, shelter for women and children, and self-help programs for abused women and for men who abuse women.



Oxnard Pioneer Dial Club Holds Brunch

The Oxnard Pioneer Dial Club held a Sunday Champagne Brunch at the Port Royal Restaurant at the Channel Islands Marina in Oxnard, Calif., Aug. 9 to elect and install the 1982 Club officers. The incoming president is **Clifton J. Tingstrom**. Outgoing President **George Bensen** became the 1982 vice president and the new secretary-treasurer is **Connie Wilber**.

There were 57 members and guests in attendance. The Oxnard Club has more than doubled its membership since it reactivated in March 1980, growing from 62 to some 150 and still growing.



Incoming President **Jack Tingstrom** (L) accepts gavel from past President **George Bensen**. The gavel was made by **Patrick Akers**, a new member who joined in 1980.

Santa Monica Bay Club Has Theater Party

Because of flagging interest in the Santa Monica Bay Club, the leadership decided to have a purely social program. Arrangements were made with the Santa Monica Playhouse for a play and smorgesbord Oct. 13.

By guaranteeing 66 paid admissions and paying in advance, the Club was able to get the non-profit community theater to cut the price from \$7.50 to \$5.00 per person. The play "Careers" by **James Lee** featured the story of one man's determination to be a great actor no matter what the price he had to pay. Between the first and second acts, a buffet of salads, macaroni and cheese, spicy meat balls and fresh fruit was served.

The ITPA members who attended were enthused, and several showed it by volunteering to become officers for the coming year.

The Santa Monica Playhouse puts on plays all year and has special plays for children on weekends. In October they have a special play along with an Oktoberfest during the whole month. Anyone interested in sponsoring this group (they also travel to schools and put on programs) may send a donation to the Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, Calif. 90401.

Several members met at Secretary **Anne Watkins'** home to address envelopes for the Junior Blind Foundation Oct. 6. They were **Lucille Middlekauf**, **Ralph Clannin**, **Mr. and Mrs. Reno Johnson**, **Iona Williams**, **Helen Hanson**, **Vera Lorenz** and **Katie Anglin**.

The willing workers addressed and stuffed one thou-

sand envelopes in record time, with lunch provided by **Ms. Watkins** and **Ms. Williams**.

The Club also reports monthly visits by **Clara Froio** with musicians to entertain patients at local convalescent homes. The homes visited were Berkshire Convalescent Home, Berkeley East and Nazareth House. **Ms. Froio** also distributed candy to the patients and took pictures to present as a gift.

In addition, the Club donated \$100 to the Salvation Army, collected 42 pounds of cents-off-coupons for the City of Hope, and donated five shopping bags of clothes to the Battered Wives and Children's Home in Ocean Park. Also, books and toys were donated to the children at the home.

California Chapter Plans Awards Dinner

ITPA's California Chapter was set to hold its 1981 Annual Hall of Fame and Awards dinner on Dec. 19, as this issue of The PIONEER went to press. This gala affair will be held in the newly decorated Grand Salon of the Hyatt Queen Mary, presently docked in Long Beach, Calif.

The festivities will begin at 6 p.m. with a friendly social hour until 7:15 p.m., when dinner will be served.

Following the dinner, a program of awards will be presented.

The guest speaker will be **Robert C. Abrams**, vice president, Western Region, Continental Telephone Company.



The California Chapter board of directors are shown standing in the Grand Salon of the Hyatt Queen Mary, making ready for approximately 600 guests. Front row (L to R): **Dorothy Hawthorne**, **Beverly Rezac**, **Loretta Haney** and **Mary Ann Ludweg**. Rear row (L to R): **Dick Morris**, **Bob Moran**, **Dave Mercer**, **Aaron Watson**, **Maye Vern Claborn**, **Margaret Brimhall** and **John L. Bausano**. Those not present, **Bob Walsh**, **Russ Edwards** and **Douglas K. Ross**.

Otto Wettstein Pioneer Club Holds Drawing

ITPA's Otto Wettstein Pioneer Club in Florida held a Bahamas cruise drawing on Oct. 3, with tickets sold for \$1.00 each. Winner of the cruise for two was **LaDonna Anderson**. She is a customer accounts supervisor in the Winter Garden business office of Florida Telephone Corporation.

Club President **Cathy Marynell** reports that when she telephoned **Mrs. Anderson** to tell her she had won the contest, **Mrs. Anderson** couldn't believe she had won and hadn't even told her husband that she had purchased a ticket.

New England Chapter Gives Scholarships

The first annual scholarship awards were made at the 1981 convention of the Telephone Association of New England at The Balsams.

Joyce E. Campbell, president of the New England Chapter of ITPA, made the presentations to company representatives **Dick Brady**, manager of Kearsarge (N.H.) Telephone Company, for **Susan J. Ware**, and to **Lyn Hill**, manager of Somerset (Maine) Telephone Company, for **Scott W. Folsom**.

The award for **Glen Frost** was accepted by his mother, **Hope Frost**, of Community Service Telephone Company of Maine. **Jane Turpin** of Shoreham, Vt., was the only student able to attend the ceremony, and **Don Arnold**, president of Shoreham Telephone Company, matched the amount of the scholarship with a check for Ms. Turpin. **Kathleen Jacquier** of Cornish, N.H., was also an award winner.



From the left are Dick Brady, Jane Turpin, Joyce Campbell, Hope Frost and Lyn Hill.

Indiana Pioneers Hold Fall Meeting

The J.K. Johnston Chapter, C.E. McCormick Club, Virl Watkins Club and Ralph Lucier Club held a general membership meeting aboard the Madam Carroll boat on Lake Freeman at Monticello, Ind., on Sept. 26.

There were 93 members and guests present for the cruise, dinner and meeting.

President **Joe D. Lumm** conducted the brief business meeting, in which he reported on the Telephone Device for the Deaf which had been placed in July with the **Dwight Hirschy** family of Bearne, Ind. The members voted to purchase a second unit from the Tele-Tron in Indianapolis as soon as funds are available.

The secretary-treasurer's reports were presented by **Carol J. Bridge**. **Ben Miller**, ITPA second vice president, reported on the golf outing held that morning prior to the boat cruise.

President Lumm told members that the Pioneer treasury had received \$101 from the profits of the suppliers Monte Carlo party at the June Indiana Telephone Association convention. The suppliers have indicated they will sponsor one or more projects at the 1982 convention with the proceeds going to the Pioneers.

A Life Membership certificate was presented to **Carleton H. Phelps** by Mr. Lumm. It was announced that **Arthur A. Kolash**, past president of the J.K. Johnston Chapter and currently a director of that group, was retiring Oct. 2 from General Telephone Company of Indiana. Mr. Kolash expects to continue his active participation in the Pioneer program.

President Lumm reported that ITPA President **George Griffin** has accepted an invitation to attend the 1982 Indiana Telephone Association convention.

Mother Lode Club Sponsors Bus Trip

Members and guests of ITPA's Mother Lode Club, Roseville, Calif., enjoyed a "Gambler's Special" bus trip to Reno and Boomtown on Oct. 29. Prizes were raffled on the bus to raise funds for Club contributions.

For Christmas the Club sold raffle tickets for stuffed toy dogs and mini-telephone music boxes, according to a recent report from outgoing Club Secretary **Edith Olver**. She notes that nearly \$700 was donated during 1981 to five organizations ranging from the Placer Retarded Association to the Roseville Hospital Memorial Fund.

Election night was Nov. 18, with the following officers elected: President **Cal Bunn**, First Vice President **Lynn Styles**, Second Vice President **Roger Bergthold**, Secretary **Merry Lou Pratt** and Treasurer **Helen Bettini**. Board members are **Ed Gunning**, **Dick Kimball**, **Jack Poulsen**, **Vern Roberson** and **Leona Wilson**.

Illinois Pioneers Raise Money in Sale

The Pioneers of Illinois held their annual summer garage sale in Rantoul, Ill., their biggest fund raising event of the year. Nearly \$600 was collected.

Chairman of the event was **Jack Cross**, staff supervisor of settlements for the Midwest Region of Mid-Continent Telephone Corporation. He reported in the company's publication "intercom" that donations of clothing, household goods and other items came from Pioneers and many other people.

Most of the money raised will go to pay for an annual senior citizens party, with the rest used for charity donations in the community.

Allegheny Mountain Club Holds Picnic

The Allegheny Mountain Club of the Keystone State Chapter held its annual picnic Sept. 12 at the Berlin Community Park with 161 members and guests in attendance.

Games for children were in the charge of **Norma Jean Dinsmore**.

E.E. MacCosbe, past president of the Keystone State Chapter, presented the Club an award commending all the committee members who helped make the 7th annual state convention such a big success. **Doris Estvanik**, president of the Club, accepted the award.

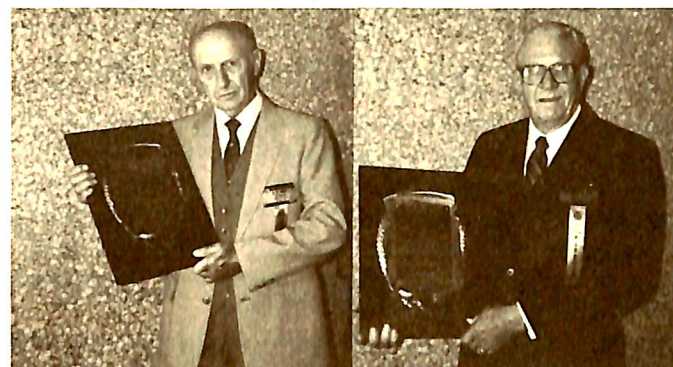
An election of four board members was held. Those elected for a two year term were **Kathleen Koenig**, **Howard Lee**, **Sally Simpson** and **Victor J. Schuller**.

Bingo rounded out the activities for the day.

Texas Chapter Adds Two to Hall of Fame

ITPA's Texas Chapter held its annual meeting and luncheon Sept. 11, with two Pioneers inducted into the state's Hall of Fame and new Chapter officers elected.

New Hall of Fame members are **A.L. Robb**, posthumously, former owner of the Electra Telephone Company, and **Robert P. Hill**, former president of the Sugar Land Telephone Company.



Hall of Fame plaques are accepted on the left by D.M. Robb on behalf of his father, A.L. Robb, and on the right by Robert P. Hill.

Mr. Robb's career spanned nearly 40 years until his retirement in 1945. His award was accepted by his son, **D.M. "Dink" Robb**.

Mr. Hill's career started in 1943 and continued until he retired in 1978 after five years as president.

New Chapter officials for the coming year are Presi-



ITPA Region IV Vice President R.F. Levo (L) presents Life Membership certificate to W.A. "Dub" Leigon of Oklahoma City.



More than 160 years of industry service are represented by long-time ITPA members (L to R) Marion Clay, Bill Henning, Robert P. Hill and Morris Bateman.

dent **C.R. "Dunk" Morgan**, First Vice President **Jerald D. Jones**, Second Vice President **Alvin M. Fuhrman**, Third Vice President **Billy C. Colston**, Fourth Vice President **Lee Roy Whitney** and Secretary-Treasurer **Robert F. Levo**.

Joe Maritan Named Executive Secretary Of Roadrunners, International

Joe Maritan has been named executive secretary of Roadrunners, International, a newly formed division of the U.S. Telecommunications Suppliers Association (USTSA). Mr. Maritan, who retired July 31 as senior vice-president of Leland Mast Directory Company, had served as secretary-treasurer of the Roadrunners Chapter of ITPA since its beginning in 1970.

The Roadrunners Chapter of ITPA will continue as a Chapter of the Pioneers under the sponsorship of Roadrunners, International.

Officers and directors of the new division are: Chairman **Roegner Cushing** of TRW Vidar; Vice Chairman **Vincent Halloran** of Telephone Repair & Supply Co.; Secretary/Treasurer **Bob Millner** of Rockwell-Collins; Executive Secretary, Mr. Maritan; with **Bill Hershey** of Pre-formed Line Products Company, **Bob Stoll** of Northern Telecom, **John Winchester** of National Telephone Supply Company and **Donald Pollock** of USTSA completing the Board of Directors. The same people will serve as directors for the Roadrunners Chapter of ITPA.

The new group was formed for the express benefit of the membership. The highly successful "Job Bank Openings" program, which was the main project of the Roadrunners for the past several years, will be continued and expanded. News pertaining to individuals in the telecommunications industry will be disseminated to the membership through newsletters. Additional services and benefits are planned.

Membership in Roadrunners, International, is open to anyone in the telecommunications industry including CATV, interconnect, manufacturers and suppliers, as well as those connected with telephone operating companies.

Offices are at 5921 W. 89th St., Overland Park, Kan. 66207; (913) 649-6503.



"Mr. Roadrunner." Joe Maritan (foreground left), executive secretary of the new Roadrunners, International, accepts a signed print of Arthur Singer's well-known roadrunner painting, from TE&M Publisher Ray Smith. Looking on are (L to R) USTSA President Gerard Meyer and the new board of directors of Roadrunners, International (and also the board of the Roadrunners Chapter of ITPA): Bob Stoll, Bill Hershey, Roge Cushing, Bob Millner, Vince Halloran and John Winchester.

National Capital Chapter Holds Luncheons

ITPA's National Capital Chapter met on Nov. 12 for a luncheon address by **Capt. Daniel Donovan (USN)**. He is deputy director of naval communications in the office of the chief of naval operations. His topic was the Extra Low Frequency (ELF) Program.

Some 56 Pioneers from the Washington, D.C., area attended.

The Chapter's Dec. 3 luncheon featured an address on national emergency telecommunications by **Col. Jack Taylor**. He is chief of plans and national communications systems with the U.S. Air Force.

Bluebonnet Pioneer Club Makes Plans

The Bluebonnet Pioneer Club of Killeen, Tex., had a number of special events planned for the holiday season and has many more lined up for 1982.

Fund raising through Christmas card sales, a chili supper with United Way, and the Santa Pal program were set for the last month.

In the coming year, plans include assistance with the Easter Seals Tele-a-thon in March, a TV auction for public broadcasting and a centennial parade.

Pioneers Attend GTE AE Homecoming

GTE Automatic Electric, Northlake, Ill., held its 15th annual homecoming, with 625 people including scores of Pioneers attending.

The homecoming crowd enjoyed lunch in the main cafeteria, as well as a factory tour and videotape of the GTD5 switching system. Pioneer Club President **Mel Reid** extended greetings and thanks to the company for its hospitality.

George Bradley, vice president of marketing for GTE Automatic Electric, addressed the group.

Personal Notices

Former USITA Director Forest Schafer Dies

Former USITA Director **Forest H. Schafer**, chairman and president of Urban Telephone Corporation, Clintonville, Wis., died Oct. 8 of a heart attack. He was 75 years old.

Mr. Schafer started his career in 1928, serving in various positions with the company. He was a USITA director from 1966 through 1975.

He is survived by his wife, **Magdalen**, two daughters and a son.



Pioneer William Benisek Dies

William Benisek, former president of ITPA's 312 Chapter, Northlake, Ill., died Oct. 17 of a heart attack.

He joined Automatic Electric in the early 1920s, working in engineering and supervisory positions. He became active in Pioneering when he retired and served as president of the Chapter in 1979. The GTE Automatic Electric Pioneer newsletter reported that he attended the company homecoming party just two days before his death.

Marian Learey of Florida Passes

Marian Learey, wife of former Florida State Chapter President **Fred Learey**, passed away on Nov. 13 following a brief illness. A native of Duluth, Minn., she lived in Ironton, Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio, before moving to Tampa in 1961 when her husband assumed the presidency of the General Telephone Company of Florida and later as a member of its board of directors.

Marian Learey was most interested in the Pioneers and frequently accompanied her husband during his Pioneer activities. She was also very public spirited, serving as president of the Children's Home of Tampa, the Children's Hospital Auxiliary, and many other civic projects.

Survivors in addition to her husband include two sons, **Frederick K.** of Oakland, Md., and **Richard N.** of Indianapolis, a former General Telephone Company of Ohio employee, and a sister, **Mrs. Carlos Parker** of Roanoke, Va., as well as four grandchildren.

Harold K. Bailey of Illinois Dies

Pioneer **Harold K. Bailey** died Sept. 6 at the age of 60. He was a charter member of the Iverson A. Lumpkin Pioneer Club, Mattoon, Ill.

Mr. Bailey joined the Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company in 1953. He served as a lineman in Mattoon and Charleston before retiring in April 1980.

Pioneer James E. Vest Dies

ITPA member **James E. Vest** died Oct. 2 at the age of 54. He worked for General Telephone Company of Ohio in Wilmington.

He joined the company 24 years ago and began his career in 1952.

50-Year Veteran Walton Long Dies

Pioneer **Walton D. Long** died at the age of 79 in La Crosse, Wis., Nov. 20. He was a Life Member of ITPA, having started his 50-year career with La Crosse Telephone Company in 1921.

Mr. Long was an accountant with the company. He is survived by his wife, **Dorothy**, and a son, **Richard**.

Pioneer Myrtle M. Evans Dies

Life Member **Myrtle M. Evans**, a retired operator with Florida Telephone Corporation, passed away in October.

She started her career in 1924 and retired in 1973. She lived in Belle Glade, Fla.

Two Die, Two Retire from LT&T

The Lincoln (Neb.) Telephone and Telegraph Company magazine of October-November reports the death of two Pioneers and the retirement of two others.

Passing away on Aug. 9 was Life Member **William R. Kneec**. He had some 45 years of service with the company when he retired in 1974. His entire career was in the shop area, most recently as shop foreman.

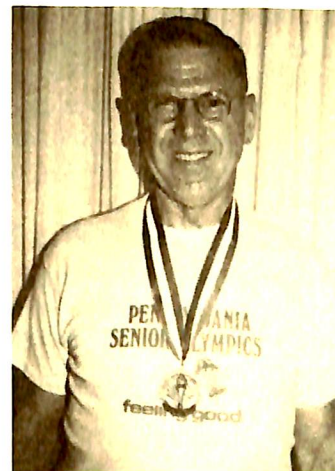
Pioneer **Charles Stock** died July 21. He had 25 years of service in the supply operation before he retired in 1970.

Retiring from the company were ITPA members **Clarence H. Eitzmann** and **Tom G. Goldenstein**. Mr. Eitzmann retired July 8 after 34 years with the company, much of his time having been spent in outside telephone work and as a project engineer. Mr. Goldenstein retired Aug. 1 with 35 years of service, most recently as engineering manager for outside plant.

William Walker Wins Bronze Award

Congratulations to Pioneer Life Member **William Walker**, who recently won a bronze medal in the men's 50-yard freestyle swimming event, 65-69 age group, at Pennsylvania's first Senior Olympics.

Mr. Walker is shown wearing his medal in the accompanying photograph. The swimming event was one of many different athletic contests which drew 260 competitors to Shipensburg State College.



Leon C. Biss Retires in New York

Pioneer **Leon C. Biss** retired after 22 years of service, according to a report in the October issue of "intercom," in-house publication of Mid-Continent Telephone Corporation.

Mr. Biss started his industry career in 1945. When he retired he was central office supervisor with Midstate Telephone Corporation in Fulton, N.Y.

D.W. Foss of Iowa Retires

Darrell W. Foss retired after 49 years in the telephone and electric industry, including the last 28 years with Continental Telephone Company of Iowa as a distribution and facility engineer.

He was a part owner of the family telephone and electric industry selling the telephone company to Iowa-Illinois Company, now part of Continental Telephone of Iowa, and the electric company to Union Electric Company of St. Louis, Mo.

He and his wife, **Mabel**, have moved to the Lake of the Ozarks, in the town of Camdenton, Mo.

Mr. Foss is a member of the Tom Griffith Chapter-Southeast Iowa Pioneer Club.



ITPA's Newest Life Members



Life Members are those who have engaged in the telecommunications industry for a period of 40 years and who have been members of this association for not less than 15 years.

New Life Members recorded at Headquarters during October and November:

October

Donald Davis
Wilford R. McGrew
Alfons J. Friederichs
George Tanner

NEAREA Club
Silver State Chapter
Badger State Chapter
Mt. Vernon Club

November

John A. Schleh
Betty J. Hutchinson
Raymond N. Sordoni
William R. Turnbull

The Three Twelve Chapter
NEAREA Pioneer Club
NEAREA Pioneer Club
Direct Member

Arthur Kolash Retires in Indiana

Pioneer **Arthur A. Kolash** retired Oct. 2 after nearly 40 years of industry service. He was intercompany relations manager with General Telephone Company of Indiana at the time of his retirement.

Mr. Kolash and his wife, **Jane**, live in Ft. Wayne.

Elmer Wright Retires in Minnesota

ITPA member **Elmer Wright** has retired after 28 years in the telephone industry. He was plant manager of Ace Telephone Association, Houston, Minn.

Pioneer Walter T. Geary Retires

Walter T. Geary has retired with 23 years of service to Central Telephone and Utilities Corporation. Mr. Geary started his industry career in 1941.

He was vice president of Centel in Chicago, as well as a member of ITPA, at the time of his retirement.

Life Member Ken Dahlstrom Retires

Ken E. Dahlstrom, a Life Member of ITPA who started his telephone career in 1936 working with his father in a magneto exchange in Gibson, Iowa, retired Oct. 1. He was assistant general manager for United Telephone Company of Kansas.

Mr. Dahlstrom spent 31 years with the United Telephone System and predecessor companies. He and his wife, **Jess**, have moved to Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri.

Modern Day 'Pioneers' Get Together in Boston

By George F. Griffin
President, ITPA

It was a perfect June morning and it became even more perfect when I opened my letter from Joe Healy, executive director of Telephone Pioneers of America, extending an invitation for my wife and me to attend their 56th annual assembly being held in Boston in September 1981.

Little did I realize at the time that it would prove to be one of the most impressive such gatherings that I have ever had the privilege to attend.

For those of you unfamiliar with the Telephone Pioneers of America, let me briefly outline some background information on this wonderful organization.

TPA Is Largest Voluntary Group

Telephone Pioneers of America is the world's largest voluntary association of industrial employees. It is composed of men and women in the United States and Canada who have served 18 or more years in the Bell System companies.

Founded in 1911, it had its origin in the American Telephone and Telegraph Company when three company employees sought to enroll veterans of telephony in an association. Encouraged by Theodore N. Vail, president of AT&T, the association was dedicated to preserving the history of the telephone system and fostering fellowship.

From an initial membership of 439, the Telephone Pioneers of America has grown to more than 540,000. About 63 percent are actively employed in the telephone industry, and 37 percent are retirees.

Working through 94 chapters in 48 states and Canada, the Telephone Pioneers contribute time to a wide range of community service activities, from tutoring central city children and caroling at nursing homes, to recycling and other environmental projects. Members' basements become workshops for repairing recording machines for the blind, and manufacturing and designing "talking toys" for autistic children.

Now back to our Boston trip....

It was fitting that the Pioneers of America should observe their 70th anniversary in Boston where their founding fathers first met in 1911.

Theme: "A Tradition of Caring"

This year's theme, "Pioneers: A Tradition of Caring," was emphasized from the opening ceremony on Sunday to the closing finale at the banquet Wednesday evening.

One has to be impressed with the warm greetings received upon arrival and the fellowship evidenced throughout the meetings held in the famous Boston Symphony Hall. Joe Healy, gifted master of ceremonies, called the meeting to order. Using viewer podium, a wide-angle screen and beautiful background music, his presentation rivaled any Hollywood production.

Symphony Hall was filled to capacity with delegates and guests from 13 regions, each assigned to a special section. Within the regions, there were 94 individual

chapters, all with colorful banners representing distinctive chapter emblems.

During the opening ceremony, Mr. Healy introduced all distinguished delegates and guests. It was a thrill to be introduced as guests from ITPA, along with President Frank Barnes and Secretary Mary Lee. At the time of introduction, a huge colored photo of the individual was flashed on the screen.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the Host Region No. 12, whose people prepared this gala event. They greeted everyone warmly, took care of registration, information, complaints, ushers, plus hospitality—you name it, they did it in grand style.

As Wisconsinites, Ann and I were assigned to Region V, representing Illinois and Wisconsin. Mr. Beard, our host, took exceptional care, seeing to it that we were treated royally.

The general assembly met all day Monday. On Tuesday, they divided the delegates into various seminar categories: presidents, vice presidents, Pioneer administrators, life member delegates, Pioneer partners.

I attended the vice presidents' seminar while Ann took in Pioneer partners. We compared notes and found ourselves impressed with not only the subject matter, but the presentations.

Grand Finale Was Reception, Banquet

Now for the grand finale Wednesday evening. Receptions before the banquet were held in each region's hospitality suite. At the banquet, the regions were again assigned sections with the front stage area reserved for the AT&T Chairman of the Board, Charles Brown, and his wife, including all the presidents of the Bell System and their spouses plus distinguished guests.

After a delicious dinner each region, one at a time, rose and proudly sang their region songs. At the conclusion, we had the good fortune to hear a very impressive speech by Chairman Brown.

I could use many more superlatives to express my feelings about the Telephone Pioneers of America; however, I think it can best be stated by quoting an assembly member who said, "When the Bell System people make up their minds to do something, they do it right." To that I say, Amen!

Just before our departure Thursday morning, we had the opportunity to visit the auditorium where hundreds of pieces of literature and items were on display, each depicting the chapters' projects.

The main showcase from their headquarters office had several items displayed that could be purchased—all good fund-raisers.

At the closing assembly, I noted several ideas, and so did Clyde Sautters of the USITA staff, who also attended. Hopefully, we can use them in our organization.

ITPA and TPA: Basically the Same

If I were asked to compare Independent Telephone Pioneers with Pioneers of America, I would have to say that both organizations are basically the same.

Yes, the Bell System is larger, more people, more

money, more ideas. However, we all belong to the same family of telephone pioneers who care about their fellow man. Since the Pioneers of America are the largest voluntary association of industrial employees, then we must feel a keen sense of pride to be a part of that organization as well.

To all the many Bell System friends we met in Boston, we say "Three Bell-ringing cheers for the Telephone Pioneers of America who have contributed so much for so many."

Frank Woods Collection

Continued from page 3

many companies and individuals asking for the loan of old telephones for the exhibit.

A display of what he called "models of the first 13 telephones" was gathered together and shown on several occasions. Many of the loans turned into permanent gifts, forming the beginning of a collection. Gradually other items were added and a display was set up in the lower level of the main office building.

Mr. Motter's successor, Norman Ott, appears to have had the inspiration to expand and improve the collection. Joe Hartley, now retired, worked with Mr. Ott during the 1930s and eventually became the unofficial company historian. He recalled that "We took in everything people would bring us. We had one wall filled with the beginnings of the collection."

Public tours of the telephone building included a look at the old telephones, a practice which created awareness of the historical value of old instruments. Over the decades, various pieces, some quite rare, were donated.

Traveling Display Developed by 1950s

By the mid 1950s a traveling display of some of the most interesting telephones had been developed. This was used at a number of telephone company open houses during Lincoln Telephone's golden anniversary year in 1954 and in succeeding years as the company pursued an aggressive dial conversion program.

As the collection grew and became more valuable, it was recognized that it should be more carefully preserved, organized and developed. The Pioneers of the Frank H. Woods Chapter had the talent and knowledge required and took on the responsibility for the collection.

Five years ago the present unofficial curator of the collection, Al Farmer, began a program of improving the collection. He began to restore the various instruments by replacing non-authentic parts—most often transmitters



Wet cell and dry cell batteries once used to power telephones.

and receivers—with those of the type originally issued; by refinishing and replating as needed; and by more accurately identifying the pieces. He also began to sell or trade duplicates and some foreign instruments in the collection so as to add other telephones to fill in the historical progression.

The growing interest in collecting phones and the rapidly increasing value of the antique instruments brought to an end the days of the traveling displays of these interesting old phones. Today's permanent display was planned three years ago and a large walk-in display case was built for the Pioneers by The Lincoln Telephone Company.

Today, the Pioneers are gradually gathering and storing more modern examples of the changing art and technology of the telephone business so that the exhibit can be expanded and kept current and complete.

GTE Donates \$60,000 to DEAFNET

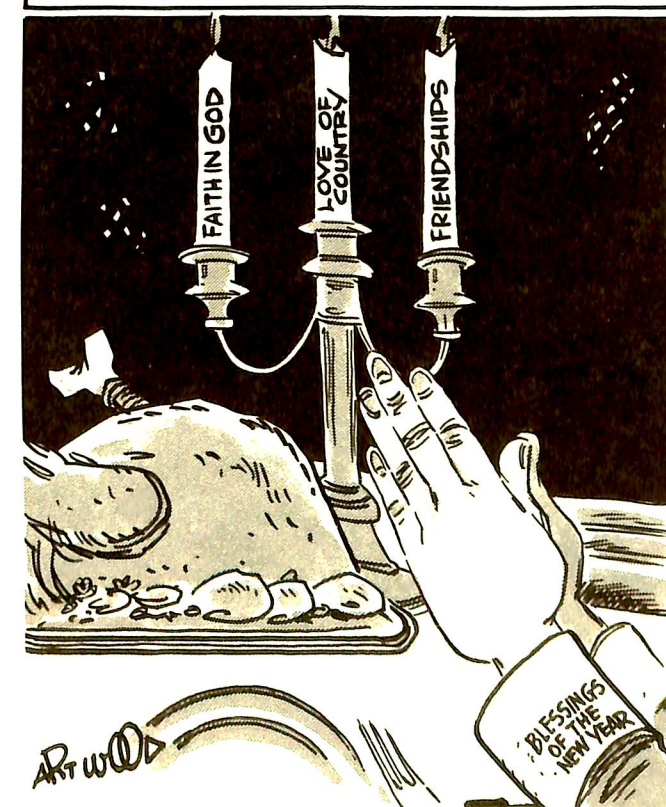
GTE and GTE Telenet Inc. have donated \$60,000 in seed money to DEAFNET, the electronic mail project for the deaf.

The project is sponsored by Deaf Communications Inc., a Boston area group of deaf users. The DEAFNET project is aimed at bringing deaf people a better flow of information in their daily lives, as well as encouraging more contact between the deaf and people with normal hearing.

The money is being used to underwrite costs of providing equipment and to subsidize costs of communications for the deaf.

Contact Mary Robinson, Assistant Project Director, Deaf Community Center, Bethany Hill, Farmington, Mass. 01701; voice telephone (617) 875-3617, or TDD (617) 875-0354 for information.

THE PIONEER SPIRIT



Foundation Grants

Continued from page 1

The Bryant Pond company has been sold to Oxford County Telephone & Telegraph Company, and the 500 telephones and two-position magneto switchboard probably will be converted to dial service in a few months.

New Officers Elected

The trustees elected the following officers for the coming year: President Wilson B. Garnett, Vice Presidents Russell P. Hulbert, Wesley H. Loomis III, James L. Robb and Bert L. Steele, Secretary Edna D. Mueller and Treasurer Raymond E. Dolar.

Appointed manager of the museum and foundation is Clyde Sautters, with assistant manager to be Courtney S. Snyder. Both men are members of the USITA staff.

Loomis Honored by Resolution

Mr. Loomis, founding president of the museum and foundation, was honored by the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Wesley H. Loomis, III during his illustrative service as President of ITPA in 1964-66 was directly responsible for the establishment of the Independent Telephone Historical Museum and Hall of Fame Foundation; and

WHEREAS, He has continually served with great distinction and leadership as the President of the Independent Telephone Historical Museum and Hall of Fame Foundation since its founding; and

WHEREAS, He has requested that he not be re-elected as President but offers to remain as an officer, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Independent Telephone Historical Museum and Hall of Fame Foundation hereby recognizes with the deepest appreciation the exemplary leadership and truly dedicated service of the very highest order that Mr. Loomis has given to this organization and the Independent Telephone Industry,

FURTHER, that copies of the resolution be transmitted to the President and officers and members of the Board of Directors of ITPA.

In another action at the meeting, the trustees requested Mr. Sautters to develop a conceptual design and funding study for a "Moving Museum" project. This would be in the form of an audio/visual program featuring the history of the Independent telephone industry and ITPA.

The program could be used by local Chapters and Clubs both internally and externally, with some localized material inserted if appropriate.

Pioneer National President Speaks At Alabama-Mississippi Convention

George F. Griffin, ITPA's new president, didn't wait long to get on the speaking circuit after his election.

Attending the Alabama-Mississippi Independent Telephone Association's annual convention on Nov. 8 in Jackson, Miss., he addressed a banquet session on the Pioneer tradition.

Citing some of the history of ITPA, which dates back to 1920, he noted that the association's Historical Committee is working hard to survey telephone museums, determining what they have and what they need or desire.

In addition to ITPA's dedication to preserving the past, Mr. Griffin noted that Pioneers also have a goal of helping humanity. Listing several examples of what particular groups are accomplishing, he added: "There are many Chapters and Clubs that are continuously helping the underprivileged, the handicapped and the elderly."

He concluded by saying that the outstanding good work performed by Pioneers throughout the nation "keeps alive the true tradition of telephony."

Elgin Electronics Check Presented



Marvin Standidge (L), winner of \$2,500 charitable drawing at ITPA luncheon in New Orleans, presents check to Union University President Robert E. Craig. Money was donated by Elgin Electronics Inc., Waterford, Pa.

MOVING? NOTIFY YOUR ITPA OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE PIONEER ASSOCIATION

1801 K St. N.W., Suite 1201

Washington, D.C. 20006

W. L. Eckles, Jr.
ITPA Vice President
Lincoln Tel & Tel. Co.
Box 81309
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